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Letter dated 28 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

After the adoption today of a new resolution on the Question of Western Sahara by Security Council resolution 1513 (2003), I have the honour, on behalf of my Government, to inform you of the following.

In his report dated 16 October 2003 (S/2003/1016) the Secretary-General recommended to the Security Council to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for three months to give Morocco, in response to the request it made on 17 September to the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, James Baker III, "more time to reflect and consult before giving its final response" concerning the peace plan for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. The Secretary-General added that he hoped "to receive Morocco's response to resolution 1495 (2003) before the end of the calendar year" and "that by that time, the Kingdom of Morocco will be in position to engage positively in implementing the plan".

The Security Council has decided today to respond positively to the recommendation of the Secretary-General.

Algeria, which strongly supports the peace plan, the same way the Security Council did in its unanimously adopted resolution of 31 July 2003, is delighted that the Security Council has decided to give Morocco a reprieve to reflect on its final response. Algeria hopes that, following the steps of the Frente Polisario, Morocco will choose to seize the opportunity it is offered and that, at the indicated date, it will start to implement the plan.

Resolution 1495 (2003) is indeed crystal clear and does not need to be explained and much less interpreted.

Unless one wishes to rewrite it, the resolution as adopted in the six official languages of the Organization on 31 July 2003, clearly calls upon the parties, namely the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Polisario, to move towards the acceptance and the implementation of the plan.

Since the Frente Polisario has already responded positively to the Personal Envoy, it is now the turn of Morocco to follow the same path by engaging positively in accepting and implementing the plan, which, according to the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy, "represents a fair and balanced approach to the question of Western Sahara, providing each side some, but perhaps not all, of what it wants".

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It is the wish of Algeria, which has steadfastly called for a just and definitive settlement of the question of Western Sahara and has, in this spirit, always supported the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy and always will, that wisdom and justice will ultimately prevail and that, like the other people under colonial or foreign domination, the people of Western Sahara will, at last, exercise its alienable right to self-determination.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah **Baali**
Ambassador